

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated 8 June 2005, Applicant offers this amendment and terminal disclaimer. Reconsideration and reevaluation of the patent application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

At page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected claims 1 through 12, 20 through 30, 36 and 41 through 46 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Examiner noted that the Specification disclosed a drill string pivoting member. Please note that Applicant, with this amendment, has amended the Specification at pages 2 and 25 so that the drill string pivoting member can be a swivel or a top drive. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection has now been obviated.

At the bottom of page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 31 and 32 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Normand (U. S. 3,163,430). Additionally, at page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 33 under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Normand in view of Legget et al. (U. S. 4,938,290). Please note that Applicant has amended independent claim 31 to incorporate the elements from claim 34. Additionally, Applicant has canceled claim 32. Claim 35 has also been amended to depend from independent claim 31. Applicant respectfully submits that these claim rejections based on these prior art patents have now been obviated.

At page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1 through 46 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over the claims of U. S. Patent No. 6,637,516. Additionally, the Examiner rejected claims 1 through 46

under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over the claims of U. S. Patent No. 6,651,746. Applicant submits with this amendment a terminal disclaimer signed by the applicant, Anthony R. Boyd. Applicant respectfully submits that with the filing of the terminal disclaimer, this double patenting rejection
5 has also been obviated. Additionally, Applicant notes that certain antecedent basis amendments have been made, namely to claim 6. Additionally, claim 14 has been amended to properly depend on claim 13.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the remaining claims, namely claims 1
10 through 31, and 33, and 35 through 46 are now in a position for allowance. If it would aid in disposition of this matter, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned. Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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